

## REPORT ON INFORMATION COLLECTED CONCERNING APPLICANT

Under California Code of Regulations, title 2, section 60835, the Bureau of State Audits is responsible for collecting information concerning applicants for the Citizens Redistricting Commission that is needed by the Applicant Review Panel to perform its responsibilities. Pursuant to that regulation, Stephanie Ramirez-Ridgeway, Counsel for the Applicant Review Panel, requested information on behalf of the panel concerning an applicant being considered for selection to the Commission. This is a report by bureau staff in response to that request.

Name of Applicant: John C. Gamboa\_\_\_\_\_.

Date of request to collect information: August 2, 2010\_\_\_\_\_.

Statement of request: \_\_\_\_\_.

(1) In Applicant's fourth essay answer on his supplemental application regarding relevant analytical skills, he indicated that he has prior involvement with redistricting. In what capacity and for whom?\_\_\_\_\_.

(2) In Applicant's second essay answer on his supplemental application regarding ability to be impartial, he stated that in the 1990's he worked for State Senator Vasconcellos and Representative Johnson. In what capacity did he work for these officials and how did he obtain those positions?\_\_\_\_\_.

(3) In the "Employment History" section as well as the third essay answer of Applicant's supplemental application regarding appreciation for California's diverse geography and demographics, he stated that he founded and worked for two public policy organizations – the Latino Issues Forum and the Greenlining Institute. Provide information about the mission and work of these organizations.\_\_\_\_\_.

(4) In the "Employment History" section as well as the fourth essay answer of Applicant's supplemental application regarding relevant analytical skills, he stated that he has worked with the California Community Builders. What do they do?\_\_\_\_\_.

(5) In the "Activities" section of Applicant's supplemental application, he stated that he has been involved with various boards, commissions, and organizations. What are the respective missions of these organization, what did he do for them, and how did he become involved?\_\_\_\_\_.

(6) Applicant's selection to the Citizens Redistricting Commission was supported by a letter of recommendation from Faith Bautista of the Mabuhay Alliance. What is the Mabuhay Alliance?

(7) On his Form 700, Applicant disclosed an ownership interest in the John Gamboa and Rafaela Castro Partnership. What does it do and who are its clients?

Response to request: \_\_\_\_\_.

(1) Mr. Gamboa was part of an ad hoc group called "Los Californios." Its members included 100 to 150 community activists who did not like the way the Latino population was being treated by Democratic and Republican state legislators. Applicant was an analyst for the group who helped with demographic information. Los Californios was given access to Rose Institute software so they could develop their own redistricting plan. Los Californios took their plan to the Legislature and received some concessions regarding redistricting. They completed their work in 1980.

(2) As a member of the Latino Issues Forum, Applicant approached State Senators John Vasconcellos and Ross Johnson about introducing legislation to make auto insurance more affordable. These two state legislators agreed to work with Mr. Gamboa. Mr. Gamboa states the Latino Issues Forum is now "defunct;" however, there is still a website for the organization. He explained that the organization is on hiatus due to financial difficulties..

(3) According to its website, the Latino Issues Forum (LIF) is "a non-profit public policy and advocacy institute dedicated to advancing new and innovative public policy solutions for a better, more equitable, and prosperous society." Its vision is "to improve the social, economic, and environmental future for Latinos in California." The LIF "aims to be a leading force in setting the Latino policy agenda; engage and connect Latinos to participate in the advocacy and policymaking process; provide legislative alternatives that promote Latinos; communicate policy to Latino organizations, stakeholders; community-based organizations, and opinion leaders; serve as a catalyst and resource to inform the public; and produce fact-based research that demystifies the impact of the Latino community, i.e. the negative perception that many people have about how Latinos, specifically immigrants, impact society."

(4) According to its website, the California Community Builders (CCB) has as its mission "to introduce what we unabashedly proclaim is a new paradigm in affordable housing for the California Central Valley, an area which has been called the Western Appalachia by *The Economist*. The paradigm is the utilization of the latest green building technology, including high density in an area where the norm is ¼ acre per home. All of our housing units include green design, energy efficient appliances, solar powered energy, and gray water recycling. In addition, each family receives free internet courtesy of Comcast, a new computer donated by AT&T, and associated computer training for the whole family courtesy of a grant from the California Emerging Technology Fund."

According to its website, “[t]he Greenlining Institute is a national policy, organizing, and leadership institute working for racial and economic justice. We ensure that grassroots leaders are participating in major policy debates by building diverse coalitions of grassroots leaders that work together to advance solutions to our nation's most pressing problems. Our leadership Academy has become the "farm system" for tomorrow's social justice leaders, training the best and brightest from our community. Our policy experts conduct research and coordinate multi-pronged strategies on major policy issues, including but not limited to the environment, wealth creation (asset building), philanthropy, health, energy, communications, and higher-education. . . . The Greenlining Institute was established by members of the African American, Asian American, Latino, and disabled community in 1993 to fight redlining and institutionalized discrimination. Rather than just fight redlining, the illegal practice of denying services to communities of color, greenlining would be the proactive effort of bringing investments to communities. The Greenlining Institute was founded on the belief that diverse communities are a source of unrealized assets and strength, and that diversity that leads to greater effectiveness. Our recently retired co-founders, Robert Gnaizda and John C. Gamboa, paved the way with their vision, tenacity and courage to fight for social change in unexplored policy areas.”

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(5) The following is information gathered regarding various organizations with which Applicant stated he has been involved and his involvement with them:

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- The National Federal Reserve Consumer Council (1986-1990): Applicant was appointed to the council by Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan. The council worked on policies concerning banks, such as the safety and soundness of banks. Applicant chaired a subcommittee to prevent the repeal of the Glass-Steagall bill.

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- Common Cause: Applicant served on the governing board. Mr. Gamboa's name was presented to the board who then elected him to the board. Common Cause is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote improvements in government.

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- California Public Utilities Commission Investigative Task Force on marketing abuses on California's low-income communities: Mr. Gamboa was asked to serve on the task force by then-president of the PUC and current Edison CEO John Bryson.

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- Universal Lifeline Telephone Service Commission: The commission oversees the implementation of Telephone Lifeline Service that guarantees telephone service to low-income and disabled persons at a reduced cost. Applicant was nominated for membership on the commission by Senator John Vasconcellos sometime in the 1970's.

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- Health Access: This is a community organization promoting health access policy. Applicant served on its board of directors. Former Congressman Tom Campbell nominated him for membership.

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- EDGE: This is an organization that attempted to promote minority groups and environmental organizations to work together to address growth issues. Applicant founded the organization and served as the Chairman of its board of directors. The organization failed after 3 to 4 years.

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- State Bar Examining Committee: Applicant served on the committee from 6 months to up to a year. The committee approved policy decisions regarding attorney discipline. He was appointed by then-Assembly Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa.

- Los Californios: See Response #1, above.

(6) According to its website, the Mabuhay Alliance has as its mission being “the leading resource and service provider to the Pan Asian and other underserved communities for home ownership retention and small business growth and development.” . . . The alliance is “united by a vision of a prosperous and thriving Pan Asian and other minority communities. Communicating as one voice, the Mabuhay Alliance is a powerhouse of influence, providing its members the resources and connection they need to be economically stable and sustainable.”

(7) After Applicant retired from the Greenlining Institute, he and his wife founded a consulting business dealing with fundraising and board development. Their major clients are Greenlining and California Community Builders. Applicant did not disclose this business in the “Employment History” section of his supplemental application.

Additional Information: In a book authored by Applicant’s wife, she mentioned her sisters in the book's preface. However, Applicant did not disclose any siblings in-law in the “Family Information” section of his supplemental application. When questioned about this by Bureau staff, Applicant stated that he thought he did not have to include in-laws. Staff directed applicant to submit an amendment his application to include information about his wife's sisters, their husbands, and his sister's husband.

Recommendations: None

Name and title of person submitting report: Steven Benito Russo, Chief of Investigations

Report date: August 5, 2010